

# Reading Grade 5

Reading is fundamental to all learning and supports us as lifelong learners. It can open our minds to people, places, and ideas beyond our own experiences. It gives us the knowledge we need to make informed choices as responsible citizens in a democratic society. One needs only to browse the Internet to realize how much information is available to us at our fingertips. Understanding what we read, using the wealth of information available to us, and thinking critically about what we read, are crucial skills to function successfully in today's world.

## About the Test

AIMS DPA, you will be given several passages to read, both fiction and nonfiction. You may also be given informational text to read – for example, labels or pages from manuals. The questions will assess your ability to understand, interpret, and analyze what you have read. There are approximately 84 multiple-choice Reading items. Thirty-nine items are AIMS questions, 15 items are *TerraNova* and AIMS DPA questions, and 30 items represent ten *TerraNova* reading questions and 20 *TerraNova* language arts questions. The test should be completed in approximately 1-2 hours. One sample passage is provided in this guide followed by a set of questions. Reading this passage and answering the questions may help you prepare for the test. An answer key for the reading questions is included in this guide.

## Hints for Taking AIMS DPA Reading

- You will be asked to read different types of fiction and nonfiction, so adjust your reading to your purpose. Read each passage and the accompanying questions carefully.
- Think about each question before you respond.
- In the multiple-choice questions, choose the best response to the question.
- Manage your time so that you won't feel rushed answering questions that require more thought. **This is not a timed test**, but you do want to use your time well.
- Answer all items.

## Rodeo Chess Champ

Manuel slid his knight in its L-shaped pattern. “Checkmate,” he announced. Danny frowned. It was true that the chess game was over. Both Manuel’s knight and his castle were in perfect position to take the king, and there were no more possible moves for Danny.

“Big surprise,” Danny sighed, as he put away the chess set.

“See you tomorrow,” chirped Manuel, to Danny’s disappearing backpack.

Whistling his favorite radio tune, Manuel headed home down the sidewalk. He heard the skateboarders coming before he saw them. He moved toward the curb to get out of their way, but did not see the yield sign and stepped sideways into it. “Thanks for yielding the right-of-way,” sang Jennifer, Manuel’s classmate.

“Don’t whistle and walk, Manuel,” another girl teased. She executed a perfect series of jumps down some small concrete steps, landing on all four wheels.

“You’ll grow out of it,” Manuel’s father counseled when Manuel explained the scrapes on his elbow. “At least your brain isn’t clumsy, right?” Manuel rolled his eyes. He was not looking forward to the weekend. When his dad and his aunt got together, they would think of all sorts of silly remarks like this one.

\*\*\*\*\*

A beautiful brown horse greeted Manuel and his dad as they entered the gravel drive to Tía<sup>1</sup> Elena’s ranch. It had three “socks,” as Tía Elena would call the white coloration on its legs. “She was a gift,” Tía Elena explained. “Would you like to learn how to ride, Manuel?”

That weekend, all the embarrassing stories Manuel’s dad and aunt shared seemed to fade away in the comforting, earthy smell of the stable, the calming procedure of brushing Oma’s coat, and the new rhythm of riding that Manuel discovered. “*Oma* is the German word for grandmother,” said Tía Elena. “Whoever named her must have had a very spirited abuela<sup>2</sup>.” She showed Manuel how to tap the mare’s sides with his heels to get her to move forward and how to “post” for a smoother ride by standing up and sitting down in the saddle.

Manuel’s father allowed him to continue the riding lessons, since Tía Elena’s farm was only an hour away. In a few months, Manuel had learned to ride the barrels with Oma. The first time horse and rider tried making a cloverleaf pattern around all three barrels without knocking any of them over took fifty seconds. Soon they reduced the time to twenty-seven seconds. “Probably not fast enough to compete with the more experienced riders your age, but it’s not too bad for a beginner,” Tía Elena commented.

“Compete?” Manuel repeated. The last time he had done any physical demonstration in public was when his P.E. class danced the Virginia Reel for the History Fair. He had fallen out of step so badly that he kept missing the hands of the partners he was supposed to reel around and caused a few of them to run into each other.

Brain games were Manuel’s strength. Beating Danny in chess had put Manuel in the number one place in his entire school. But where would Manuel go from there? With Oma, he had found a match for his mind, or rather, his will. By “spirited,” Tía Elena meant more than just quick and nimble — she also meant stubborn. “I’ve already entered you and Oma in the rodeo,” Tía Elena said, “so you’d better show that horse that you are in charge.”

\*\*\*\*\*

On the day of the rodeo, Manuel was nervous. His anxiety increased when he noticed his teacher and ten of his classmates sitting in the stands. “Looks like your dad shared some information with the parent network,” Tía Elena commented. “Show them what you can do.”

As he sat astride Oma, Manuel fidgeted nervously in the saddle and wondered why he had let himself be talked into this. However, Manuel had no time to worry when the gate swung open. Remembering everything his aunt had taught him, he and Oma managed to run the barrel race in twenty-five seconds. The time was not good enough for a ribbon, but seeing the amazed looks on his classmates’ faces was reward enough for Manuel.

“If I had known all you needed was a few more legs for balance, I wouldn’t have made fun of you,” Jennifer joked. Manuel reached up to stroke Oma’s mane.

“Your brain’s not so clumsy, either,” he replied.

<sup>1</sup> **Tía:** the Spanish word for aunt.

<sup>2</sup> **abuela:** the Spanish word for grandmother.

1 What is the conflict in the passage?

- A A boy overcomes a challenge.
- B A boy wins a ribbon at the rodeo.
- C A boy beats other people in a game.
- D A boy is teased by his father and aunt.

2 What is the theme of this passage?

- A Dreams always come true.
- B Be happy with who you are.
- C It is important to try new things.
- D You can always count on your friends.

Read this sentence from the passage.

The last time he had done any physical demonstration in public was when his P.E. class danced the Virginia Reel for the History fair.

3 In this passage, what does the word Reel mean?

- A not imaginary
- B a type of dance
- C walk unsteadily
- D part of a fishing pole

4 What is the climax of “Rodeo Chess Champ”?

- A Manuel beat Danny in a game of chess.
- B Jennifer joked with Manuel after the race.
- C Tía Elena gave Manuel riding lessons on Oma at the ranch.
- D Manuel and Oma ran the barrel race in twenty -five seconds.

Read this statement from paragraph 11 of the passage.

But where would Manuel go from there?
---------------------------------------

5 What does this statement mean?

- A Manuel did well in the rodeo.
- B Manuel could not find Tía Elena’s ranch.
- C Manuel had difficulty dealing with his fear.
- D Manuel had nobody else to play against in chess.

6 Why did Tía Elena enter Manuel in the rodeo?

- A She knew Manuel was very athletic.
- B She wanted Manuel to challenge himself.
- C She knew Manuel had ridden in other rodeos.
- D She wanted to see Manuel ride Oma in the barrel race.

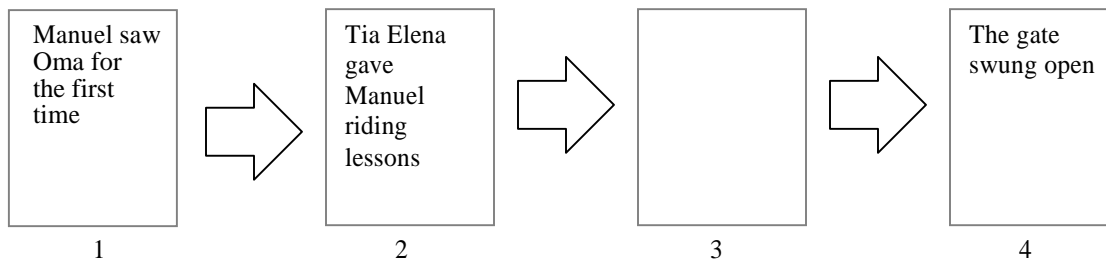
7 Why was Manuel nervous about riding in the rodeo?

- A He was not used to being on a horse.
- B His dad and aunt had made silly remarks.
- C His aunt had given him too many directions.
- D He did not like having his classmates watch him.

8 In this passage, what does the word fidgeted mean?

- A squirmed
- B napped
- C paced
- D daydreamed

Look at the graphic organizer that shows Manuel's experience with Oma.



9 Which of these sentences belongs in box 3?

- A Manuel and Oma ran the barrel race in twenty -five seconds.
- B Manuel stroked Oma's mane and made a joke to Jennifer.
- C Manuel and Oma were entered in the rodeo by Tía Elena.
- D Manuel was calmed by the smell of the stable.

10 In this passage, what does the word procedure mean?

- A rhythm
- B scent
- C sound
- D process

11 To which genre does "Rodeo Chess Champ" belong?

- A realistic fiction
- B folktale
- C mystery
- D historical fiction

12 How does the author compare Manuel to the horse, Oma?

- A Nobody expects either to do well at the rodeo.
- B They are both spirited and stubborn.
- C Both learn important things from each other.
- D They are both nervous about performing in front of people.

13 At the end of the passage, what will Manuel **most** likely do?

- A keep practicing to win a ribbon at the rodeo
- B be defeated by one of his classmates in chess
- C be willing to attempt new things
- D lose interest in the horse and racing

14 Which word **best** describes the mood at the end of this passage?

- A happy
- B cautious
- C angry
- D serious

15 What is the **main** reason Tía Elena encouraged Manuel to learn how to ride a horse?

- A She knew that Manuel had beaten everybody in chess.
- B She wanted Manuel to gain confidence.
- C She wanted Manuel to win a ribbon.
- D She was tired of people laughing at Manuel's clumsiness.

# Scoring Key

## **Reading Key**

Question #1: A  
Question #2: C  
Question #3: B  
Question #4: D  
Question #5: D  
Question #6: B  
Question #7: B  
Question #8: A  
Question #9: C  
Question #10: D  
Question #11: A  
Question #12: B  
Question #13: C  
Question #14: A  
Question #15: B